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NEW-YORK
AUG
23

Rev. Samuel May, Jr.,
Leicester,
Mass.

O. J.'s
Letters
to
W. L. G.

Aust. Lavery Office,
New York, 23 June, 1864.

Dear May,

I have to thank you for your kind, thoughtful note in relation to the recent overhauling of the Standard before the Executive Committee. There is much that I would like to say in reply, but I am pressed for time, and my hand is weary from much writing. I have written Phillips what I meant to be, and what I am sure is, a very kind letter, stating my position clearly and appealing to his candor on my own behalf. What effect it may have on him, I cannot tell, for, according to all the information

Have I any more in the country as thoroughly and really, but I will read it to you.
Yours &c. O. J. Hacell

I get, he is in a very excited and unreasonable frame of mind. I shall send a copy of my letter to Garrison to-day, and he will show it to you, if you care to see it, on the first opportunity. He may also show you, if he will, my letter to himself, in which I have said some~~thing~~ things that I cannot repeat to you for want of time and strength, but which I would like to have you see. Especially would I like to have you see my defence against the charge — made, as I infer, by Phillips — that I postponed the matters relating to the Cleveland Convention for two weeks. The charge, as you will find, is without any foundation in truth.

Of course, I have no wish or intention to make the Standard a Lincoln sheet, but only to deal fairly and impartially with all the candidates and parties. I recognize the wisdom and the necessity of great circumspection on my part in view of the divided state of feeling and opinion in our ranks; but facts are facts, and I ~~cannot~~ am not a Blondin to walk on a tight rope over the chasm that divides the partizans of Fremont from the American Society. The truth is that the position of the Fremonters is incompatible, utterly, with that which we occupy, and do what I may, I cannot please them.

Be my monitor, my friend, and
let me hear from you ~~at~~ whenever
you think ~~that~~ I am going astray.

I wish you knew Mary E.
Gage, the noble daughter of Francis D.
Gage. She has just returned from
South Carolina, where she has been
teaching and working for the Freedmen
for two years. She is not sick, but feeble
needing rest and sympathy. If you
have space in your house, as I know
you have in your hearts, and would
like a sweet-spirited, refined and
noble guest for a few days, I wish
you would send for her and let
her breathe the atmosphere of your
beautiful home for a time. She is now,
I suppose, with Stephen and Abby Foster.

With kind regards for Mrs. May,

Yours, faithfully,

Oliver Johnson.